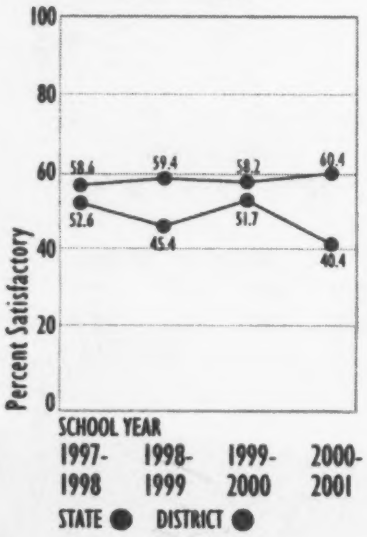
Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)

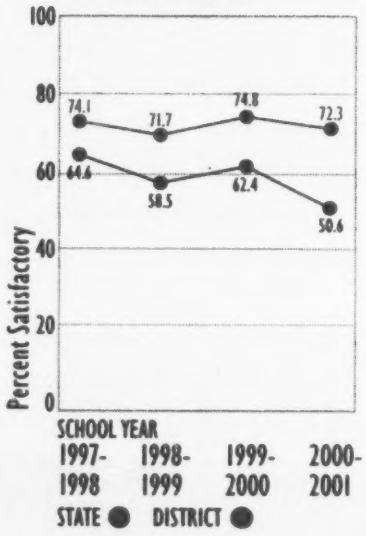
MEAP scores in general significantly varied from school to school. Analysis of MEAP performance indicates that several factors may have influenced the decline:

The State of Michigan implemented new and more stringent accreditation standards related to student MEAP scores during the 2000-2001 school year.

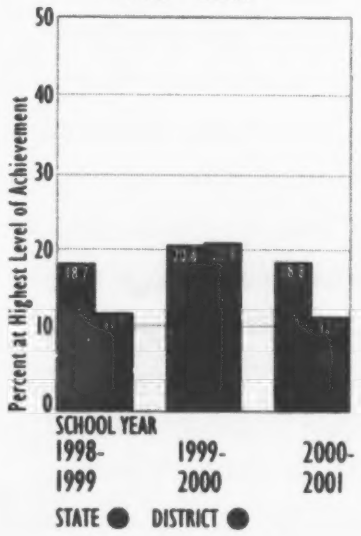
Grade 4 Reading 1997 - 2001



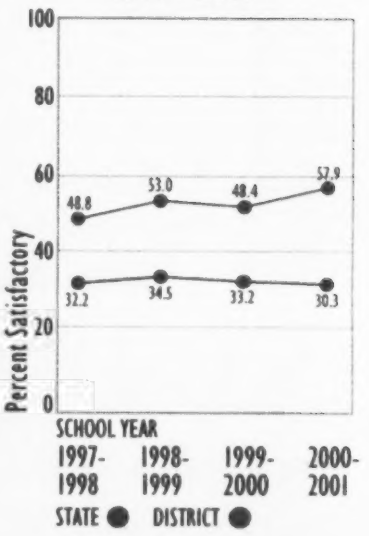
Grade 4 Mathematics 1997 - 2001



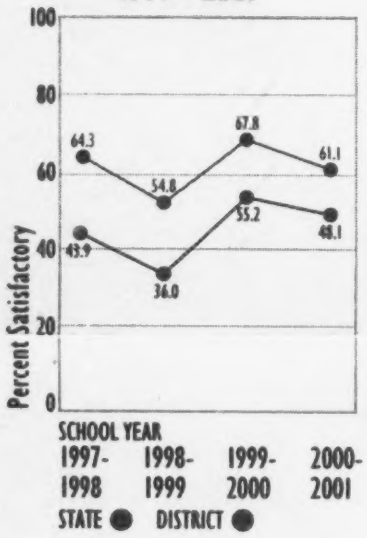
Grade 5 Social Studies 1998 - 2001



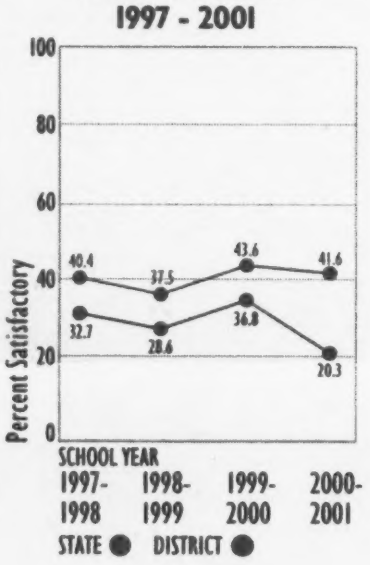
Grade 7 Reading 1997 - 2001



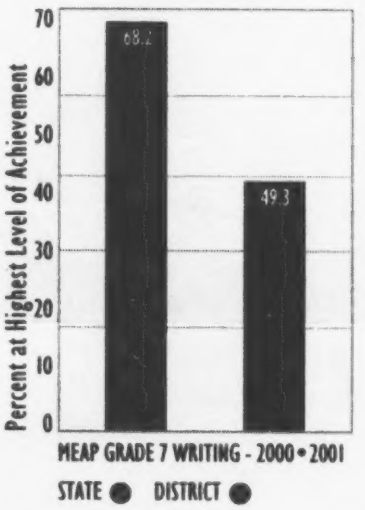
Grade 5 Writing 1997 - 2001



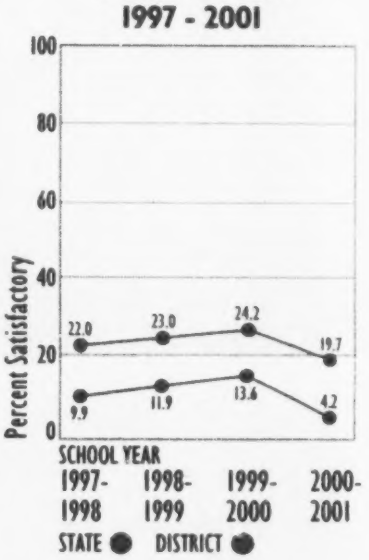
Grade 5 Science 1997 - 2001



Grade 7 Writing 2000 - 2001

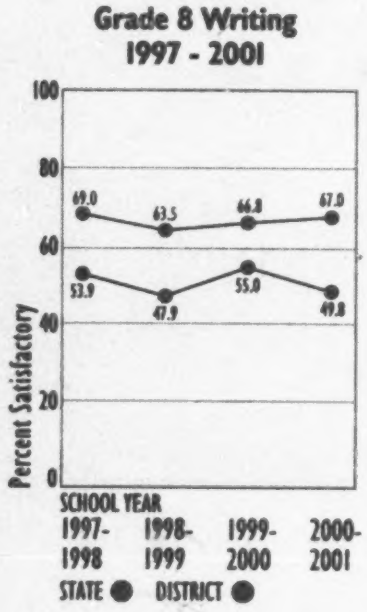


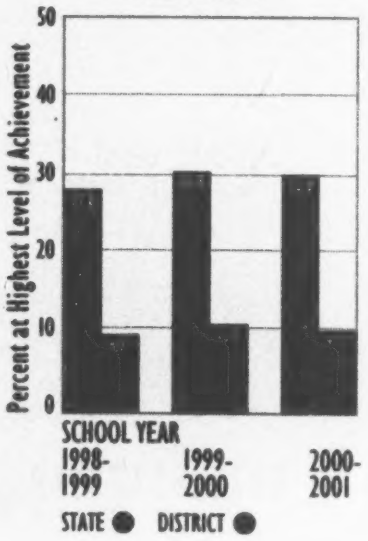
Grade 8 Science 1997 - 2001



The changes resulted in more than 600 state schools (one in five) falling below the standard.

Detroit Public Schools underwent significant administrative changes in the past few years. More than 80 new principals were hired during the 2000-2001 school year and 1,000 new teachers were hired from 1999-2001. Additionally, during 1999-2000, 259 non-certified instructional personnel were used to teach in critical areas such as math, science, reading and writing.





Dr. Richard A. Boyd, former Superintendent of Cleveland Public Schools, Dr. Anthony Bryk, Principal Investigator of the Consortium for Chicago Schools Research and Dr. Lawrence Lezotte, a national expert on Effective Schools have each indicated that large scale and rapid changes occurring in school reform may have the effect of disrupting a school system initially. Nonetheless, the positive effects of strong leadership are worth short-term consequences.

Although District-wide MEAP scores generally declined in 2001, dozens of Detroit Public Schools were among the top performers on the exam.

Seventy-five percent of students at the following schools demonstrated state-level proficiency on the MEAP in reading, writing, math and science over the past two years.

Bates Academy
Brady Elementary School
Beard Elementary School
Bunche Elementary School
Chrysler Elementary School
Davison Elementary School
Detroit Academy for Science, Math & Technology
Dixon Elementary School
Dow Elementary School
Fairbanks Elementary School
Fine & Performing Arts High School
Fisher Middle School
Foreign Language Immersion and Cultural Studies
Gompers Elementary School
Harms Elementary School
Healy International Academy
Henderson International Institute
Ludington Magnet Middle School
Malcolm X Academy
Mann Elementary School
Mark Twain Elementary School
Robeson Academy
Thirkell Elementary School
Spain Elementary/Middle School

APPENDIX B

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2002 MEAP SCORES;
Michigan Department of Education

micms-cluster.state.mi.us/mischoolinfo/

Class of 2002: Grade 4		
	Math	Reading
Satisfactory	Not Applicable	33.2%
Moderate	Not Applicable	27.7%
Low	Not Applicable	39.2%
Level 1: Exceeded MI Standards	13.9%	Not Applicable
Level 2: Met MI Standards	32.2%	Not Applicable
Level 3: At Basic Level	31.3%	Not Applicable
Level 4: Apprentice	22.6%	Not Applicable
Number Included	13798	13399
Number Tested	13801	13869
Note:	* = Fewer than 10 students included.	

Class of 2002: Grade 5			
	Science	Social Studies	Writing
Proficient	Not	Not	39.1%

	Applicable	Applicable	
Not Yet Proficient	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	60.9%
Level 1: Exceeded MI Standards	10.9%	1.6%	Not Applicable
Level 2: Met MI Standards	36.1%	10%	Not Applicable
Level 3: At Basic Level	38.6%	19.1%	Not Applicable
Level 4: Apprentice	14.4%	69.3%	Not Applicable
Number Included	13882	13344	13261
Number Tested	13885	13820	13695
Note:	* = Fewer than 10 students included.		

Class of 2002: Grade 7		
	Writing	Reading
Satisfactory	Not Applicable	21.7%
Moderate	Not Applicable	29.9%
Low	Not Applicable	48.4%
Proficient	48.9%	Not Applicable

Not Yet Proficient	51.1%	Not Applicable
Number Included	11080	11536
Number Tested	11446	11930
Note:	* = Fewer than 10 students included.	

Class of 2002: Grade 8			
	Science	Social Studies	Math
Level 1: Exceeded MI Standards	2.3%	2.1%	6.6%
Level 2: Met MI Standards	30.6%	9.1%	13.4%
Level 3: At Basic Level	33.7%	20.8%	25.9%
Level 4: Apprentice	33.3%	67.9%	54.1%
Number Included	10295	10008	10313
Number Tested	10295	10301	10313
Note:	* = Fewer than 10 students included.		

Class of 2002:					
	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing
Level 1: Endorsed Exceeded MI Standards	212	378	31	1	55
Level 2: Endorsed Met MI Standards	1662	2433	992	251	2231
Level 3: Endorsed At Basic Level	1289	1098	1580	1312	1863
Level 4: Not Endorsed	2933	2029	3203	4143	1205
Not Tested	379	439	416	533	743
Parent Exempt	1	2	2	1	2
Note:	High school scores are number of students, not percentages.				

APPENDIX C

Detroit schools lose kids, millions

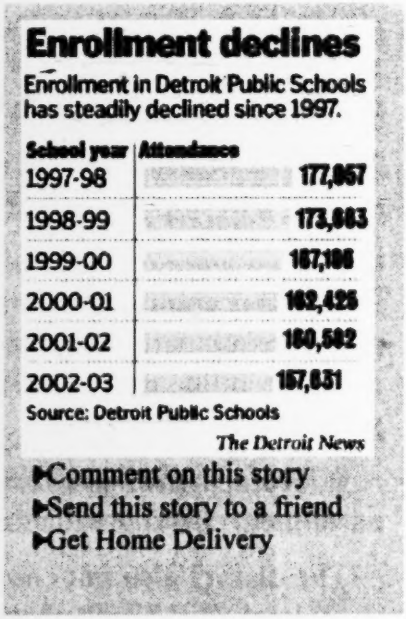
Exodus of 3,000 students will cost strapped district more than $21 million in state aid

November 21, 2002

By Jodi S. Cohen / *The Detroit News*

DETROIT—Despite massive efforts during the past year to stop a "death spiral" of declining enrollment, Detroit Public Schools lost another 3,000 students this fall.

The decline, which is outpacing Detroit's population losses, will cost the district about $21 million in state aid and will likely prompt mid-year budget cuts that could hamper reform efforts, officials told The Detroit News.



In addition, school district chief executive Kenneth Burnley said his staff will investigate why efforts to stop the decline—including a marketing campaign and new academic programs—were not successful. Enrollment sank to 157,631 kindergarten through high school students.

"We will have some loss of resources and some challenges," said Burnley, who has made student enrollment a top priority. "If you don't have the students, you can't make it work."

Indeed, Burnley often refers to the loss of students as a death spiral, resulting in decreased funding followed by cuts in staff, supplies and other resources.

Since 1997, enrollment in Detroit schools has dropped by 20,000 or 11 percent as students left for charter schools, private schools and nearby districts with schools-of-choice programs.

School reform board Chairman Frank Fountain said the yearly decline is not an indictment of the reform efforts, but an indication that the new administration hasn't convinced some Detroiters that they are positive changes in the schools.

"When we know we are turning the district around is when we begin to stop the loss of students and reverse that decline," he said.

The loss comes despite spending $1.5 million last year on public relations pitches to promote the schools. The money paid for billboards, radio ads, community newsletters and school registration fairs.

A campaign specifically designed to increase fall enrollment cost more than $410,000.

The district also put enormous efforts into getting students to school on September's "count day," the day when enrollment is counted to determine state aid. They gave free ice cream at lunch and sent flyers to parents saying that students could win prizes—computers, sports equipment and gift certificates—for attending school that day. The school district also opened eight new schools in the past two years and started new academic programs they hope will convince parents that the schools are getting better. Elementary students have new books and a completely new reading program, a $20 million investment to have every child reading by the third grade. There are also hundreds of all-day

prekindergarten and kindergarten classrooms designed to get students in the school system at an early age.

"We are fighting for our market share and to do that, we need to demonstrate to parents that we can educate their children equal to any other school district," said LaVonne Sheffield, the district's chief academic officer.

INCREASED COMPETITION

The school district is clearly struggling with competition from other schools. The 2000 census found 246,000 Detroit residents between 5 and 19 years old, evidence that many are either not in school or are attending schools elsewhere. Data on which schools Detroit children are attending this fall has not yet been released.

Detroit schools also must grapple with declining birth rates in Detroit and an exodus of residents. Detroit birth totals fell from 17,417 in 1995 to 15,892 in 2000, but the rate was relatively constant in the last part of the 1990s.

"Year to year, the number of the drop isn't so dramatic that they can attribute it necessarily to births," said Kurt Metzger, research director for the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University.

Compared to last school year, the school district attracted about 500 more kindergartners and increased the number of high school students at every grade level except for 10th grade, which bodes poorly on the district's efforts to keep students in school. Students who drop out of school often do it between ninth and 10th grades.

But the number of students in first through fifth grades declined at each level, according to district enrollment records.

The total loss is slightly less than in the late 1990s, when the district was losing about 4,000 students a year. It is also

less than some of the demographic projections, which estimated a possible loss of 7,000 students during the past two years.

"I was hoping to wipe it out," Burnley said. "That's tough." Burnley wanted to increase enrollment because every student brings money from the state. The district will get $7,179 per student in state aid this year, which includes a $15 million bonus to help with reform efforts.

School officials had been optimistic that they would either keep enrollment the same—or even increase the number of students—after several Catholic and charter schools closed in the city.

CLASSES FACE CUTBACKS

The decline will directly affect students like those at Fleming Elementary, where five teachers are expected to be transferred because of enrollment declines. The remaining classes will be combined and the number of students in each class will near 30.

After-school tutoring already has been dropped, along with the basketball and cheerleading squads and the math and chess clubs even though the school got the state's Golden Apple award last month for most improved test scores.

Fleming second-grade teacher Sherry Northrup said the student decline "reflects badly on Detroit Public Schools in general that people want to get their kids out of the schools."

"We are failing our kids when you cut teachers and put 30 kids in a classroom," said Northrup, an 11-year Detroit schools veteran who will get an additional seven students after another second-grade teacher is cut. "When those classes are broken up, it will disrupt the flow in everyone's classrooms."

Steve Wilke, who has two children at Detroit Open, a K-8 school, also is worried about a threatened loss of at least two

teachers. He's concerned that the student decline will lead to a further exodus from the district.

"Declining population is a self-fulfilling prophecy. You lose teachers and then it is a spiral," Wilke said. "It is turmoil when you have a program that you are trying to develop with kids and the kids walk into class one day and the teacher isn't going to be there. It's tough. It's disruptive."

Fountain, the reform board chairman, said school staff should work to make the school system attractive to parents and their children. He was encouraged that the loss was smaller than in the years before the state-led takeover in 1999.

"It says simply that we have to continue our efforts to improve academics, to improve the overall infrastructure of the district and we also have to be aggressively recruiting students," he said. "We have been fighting a good fight and we will continue to do so."

APPENDIX D

School workers disrupt board
Detroit panel cancels meeting

February 21, 2002

By Jodi S. Cohen and Hawke Fracassa / *The Detroit News*

DETROIT—Detroit school reform board members cancelled their meeting Wednesday night after deciding they couldn't do business over the noise of hundreds of angry protesters, who were intent on shutting the meeting down.

Board chairman Frank Fountain stopped the meeting before the public comment session and after completing a 10-minute agenda that included only a roll call, approval of minutes, and a brief comment about a Medicaid settlement.

"We reached a point where the noise was such that we couldn't conduct business," said Fountain, who first took a 45-minute break in the hope that would quiet the crowd of about 1,000 people, some of whom booed the board and sang "We Shall Overcome." About half the crowd wanted to disrupt the meeting, while others hoped to address the board.

It was the third time a meeting of the reform board has been cancelled since it was appointed in 1999, but the first since Kenneth Burnley took over as chief executive 19 months ago. Audience members have been arrested or removed from meetings in the past.

"We won," said the Rev. Thomas Jackson, an activist tradesman with Detroit schools who was part of the group heckling the board. "Give us a chance to participate and they won't have this."

Others in the audience had a different view, including some of the 50 people who filled out cards indicating they wanted to speak during the public comment period.

Eileen Gallagher, a laid-off school social worker, protested outside before the meeting but was angry at the group that protested in the auditorium. She had planned to tell the board about the importance of social workers, but instead she worries that "all the board is going to think about is the radicals and not what the people are trying to say."

The crowd, split between school workers who wanted to discuss the recent layoffs of about 700 employees and a more activist group angry about the removal of the elected board three years ago, first protested outside King High School before the meeting began.

Each Detroit school union had urged members to join the demonstration against the job cuts and the privatization of some district services.

"We want ... to sit down with Dr. Burnley and see what we can work out to maintain integrity and save jobs and keep pay intact," said Keith Johnson of the Detroit Federation of Teachers.

Tom Watkins, state superintendent of schools and a member of the reform board, said he agreed there should be a meeting with unions. "If they have ideas, let's sit down and listen," he said. "We should all be in it ... to do what's right for the children."

School officials say the cuts are needed to avoid a $70-million budget deficit this school year and a projected shortfall of nearly $100 million in the 2002-2003 academic year.

Walter Collier, 43, bounced his daughter Ashleigh, 2, on his shoulders during the demonstration. He was laid off Jan. 11 after 10 years as a union carpenter. "It's been pretty tough because I have five children to support," said Collier of Detroit.

The crowd also included Detroit school social worker Angela Gardner, who had planned to spend her career helping students cope with challenges including drug use, peer pressure and family problems.

"Everybody recognizes the psycho-social emotional ills our children face," said Gardner, one of about 50 social workers to be laid off. "Without school social workers, our children will not be able to achieve academically."